

one, constituted, to the minds of its sagacious opponents, one of the chief objections to its ratification. And yet, we find many patriotic men, influenced by their hostility to the Banking system, the result of antiquated prejudices or a profound ignorance of its practical effects and its true tendencies—say, we find some *State Rights* men, as they would have us believe—endeavoring to strengthen the arm of the Federal Executive, by augmenting indefinitely his patronage, and investing him with the “entire control” of the revenues of the government!! This is an evil, which far outweighs, both in its abstract character and in its probable consequences, all the mischiefs of the Banking system, ten-fold exaggerated by prejudice and ignorance, and weakened by the breath of calumny.

“A Western Democrat” asserts that “the framers of the Government intended that we should have a Treasury, not only in name, but in fact.” Admit it; and what follows? What is a Treasury? It is nothing more nor less than such places of deposit as may be selected by the government for the safe-keeping of its revenues. And hence our annual Treasury Reports speak of money “in the Treasury,” alike when it is in the hands of the Treasurer at Washington, or in the vaults of the Banks, or in the custom-houses and land-offices, or in the hands of disbursing agents. Can the astute “Western Democrat” allow us, wherein the strong-boxes of Sub-Treasurers constitute this magical something, called “a Treasury,” any more than these various depositories for the time being? We beg him not to becloud his mind by dwelling upon indefinite terms, as if they possessed a tangible and limited signification. He may rest assured that we have not been for half a century without “a Treasury,” because the revenue, in all that time, has been deposited in Banks! Wherever the *Treasury* is, there is the *Treasury*, whether in the hands of irresponsible Sub-Treasurers, or in the well-guarded vaults of sound corporations.

In conclusion, we would say to A Western Democrat, that the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, directed to report to this House the amount of postage which has accrued from the Express Mail since its first establishment, under the act of 1836, discriminating between that portion of it paid by the Government or Department or office thereof, and that paid by private individuals; and to report also the total amount of cost or expense incurred by the Government in the establishment and maintenance of said Express Mail from its origin;

And also to report what will be the annual cost of establishment as it now exists, and according to existing contracts and arrangements;

And also what will be the probable cost of proposed extensions not yet contracted for; and upon what routes the said mail is now carried.

On the same day, in the H. R. t. e Rev. Mr. Reese, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was elected Chaplain.

Various resolutions, of a private and local character, were acted upon, in their preliminary stages.

On Tuesday, Dec. 12, the Senate was engaged in business of a private character together.

In the H. R., the only subject of importance was the following:

Mr. Adams presented certain memorials remonstrating against the annexation of Texas to the Union, and moved that these, together with all others on the same subject, which had been presented by himself and his colleagues at the extra session, be referred to a select committee. He said that he had made this motion in consequence of an understanding with his colleagues from the State of Massachusetts, who were unanimous in their dissent to and opposition of the motion.

Mr. Howard, of Maryland, moved to amend the motion by substituting for a select committee the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Adams having again voted apparently with the purpose of supporting his motion.

The Chair said that any debate was likely to arise on the motion.

Mr. Adams said he was at the disposal of the House; but as the gentleman from Maryland persisted in his motion for amendment, he should deem it his duty to state the reasons why it might not be adopted.

Mr. Howard said that if there was any persistency in the part of the gentleman from Maryland, he should not persist in the motion. Mr. H. should not insist on the amendment.

Mr. Howard accommodated his steps to the change. This time last year, he and the illustrious predeces-

sor were “measuring the pugnacious,” to most every man, but now it was the stanch reasoner who was to be the victor.

Mr. Adams having again voted apparently with the purpose of supporting his motion.

The Chair said that any debate was likely to arise on the motion.

Mr. Wise inquired whether it would be in order to move that the whole subject be on the table?

The Chair said it would be when the subject came up to morrow.

Mr. Adams presented another memorial of similar tenor, and made the same motion as before.

Mr. Howard repeated the motion to amend.

The Chair decided that this, too, must be over.

Mr. Adams then presented a large number more of memorials to the same effect, and included them all in a general motion of reference to a select committee.

Mr. Howard renewing his motion to amend, they were laid over till to morrow.

Mr. Adams then presented another memorial, praying for the immediate abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia; and moved that this, together with a multitude of similar memorials, presented by himself and his colleagues from Massachusetts at the late special session, from about 50,000 petitioners, be referred to the Committee for the District of Columbia.

Mr. Wise, of Virginia, moved to lay that motion on the table.

Mr. Poole, of Penn., demanded the yeas and nays: those were ordered, and being taken, resulted as follows: ayes 135, nays 70.

So the motion was laid upon the table.

Mr. Adams presented another memorial, signed by 505 petitioners, to the same effect as the last, and made the same motion.

Mr. Wise renewed the motion to lay on the table; which prevailed.

Mr. Adams having presented another, which shared the same fate, and having presented a third,

Mr. L. W. of Ala., raised the question of reception; and the question being, “Will the House receive this memorial?”

Mr. Adams demanded the yeas and nays: which were taken, and stood as follows:—aye 135, nays 59.

So the house determined that the memorial should be received.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to without a count.

Mr. Adams presented another memorial, and made the same motion respectively.

Mr. Wise renewed his motion to lay on the table, and requested Mr. Adams, with a view to save Mr. W. trouble and the time of the House, to include all his memorials of the same tenor in one general motion.

Mr. Adams begged the gentleman from Virginia to understand that he had not been from any disposition to give trouble to the gentleman or the House that he had made these motions, but out of justice to the petitioners. All he asked was the reference of the petitions to the Committee for the District.

Every body knew what the report of that committee would be in this case to the memorialists, from which he could not swear, had compiled, and would continue to do so.

Mr. Adams then presented a memorial, in Illinois, praying for the immediate abolition of slavery and the slave trade in all the Territories of the United States where it existed, and moved its reference to the Committee on the Territories.

Mr. Wise moved to lay the motion on the table.

Mr. Adams considering the subject of this memorial as very different from those preceding it, demanded that the question be taken by yeas and nays.

They were ordered by the House, and stood thus:—aye 127, nays 73.

So the motion of reference was laid upon the table.

STANDING COMMITTEES

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